

## Chairmans Report 2022/23

I would like to open my report by paying Tribute to Janine Feudé , President of Hédé Bazouges Jumelage. She died in December after having been ill for a while. She was a very strong supporter and promoter of Twinning and her apparently limitless energy saw her organising many twinning events at her farmhouse. Her funeral was attended by around 500 people who had know her from many aspects of her life including some years as Mayor of Hédé Bazouges. Her presence is missed by not only members of Twinning both here and in Hédé but also in the wider community in which she played an active part.

Looking back over the year here I am pleased that it was marked by recommencement of social events. Memories of Covid and lockdowns seem to have faded fast although even up to the end of last year we were still exercising some caution. It is with great pleasure that I can therefore welcome you in person this evening.

Our last AGM was held by Zoom (minutes of which were sent out with the notice of tonight's meeting so our first real in person get together was the delightful summer's afternoon barbecue hosted by Ian and Heather Hovey. Around members came along and enjoyed the afternoon chatting up .

A walk lead by Gerry Gurhy saw some members joining in and enjoying being out on a mild November day.

Early December saw our first contact with our friends in Hédé when we finally got over to visit for the Christmas Market. Andy and I, David and Anne Reynolds and Nick and Frances Beasley spent a long cold day selling the produce, craft items and novelty items we had taken. We had also taken a hamper for a raffle. Due to new customs rules since Brexit we had been wary about what we were able to take so did not take Crackers chutney or lemon curd as we had in the past. We were of course asked if we had any of them! My thanks to the marmalade makers, Anne and Frances for the craft items they had made and Chrissy and Mike Odams for the felt mice and other novelties which are always very popular.

It was important, I felt, for me to have a chance to talk to Jumelage members about how they see things progressing and indeed it was an opportunity to do so ( as well as catch up with old friends ).

I will return to this later in the meeting.

Finally just before Christmas we had a Christmas Social for the first time in three years. Andy and I hosted an outdoor pizza and vin chaud event with spiced apple drinks for those who preferred. I also devised a quiz based on what visitors new to Wortham might wish to know. New members Neil and Carol got an almost perfect score . Given that they are fairly new to the area they are to be congratulated. The clearly did their homework before or after they moved here!

Linda Simpson

Chair